

# Winterfest 2020

The Waterloo Ringette Association ran another successful tournament, January 9-12, 2020. during the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Winterfest. 101 teams, in 19 divisions, from a total of three provinces, including 1 team from Alberta (U19AA) and 2 from Manitoba (U19AA/U14AA). One of the largest registration rates in a few years.

Our returning committee members of Mark DeLaFranier (RIM Head Convenor), Markus Bogard (Minor Officials), Greg Conley (Awards), Roland Linn and Chin Lee (Silent Auction), Dan Dawson (Grievance), Bobby-Jo Schweitzer (Treasurer), Leanne Uhrig (Fundraising), Melissa Sulphur (Convenor Scheduling) and Denise Pelletier (Ref-in-Chief – Regional & Waterloo) seamless executed a smoothly run tournament at **five** different arenas. Plus, we saw new committee members in several key positions including Denise Totzke (Head Convenor AMC) and Christine Ellis (Tournament Scheduler) who were all fantastic additions to the team.

Registration Summary: Fees were slightly increased for a few divisions, with an increase of **8** registrations over 2019:

2019			2020		
Division	# Teams	Reg Fee	Division	# Teams	Reg Fee
18+ Jacks	8	\$900	18+ AA	7	\$920.00
18+ BB	3	\$590	18+ BB	NA	\$610.00
18+ B	5	\$590	18+ B	7	\$610.00
18+ CC	4	\$590	18+ CC	6	\$610.00
18+ C	3	\$590	18+ C	3	\$610.00
U19AA	8	\$900	U19 AA	8	\$920.00
U19A	5	\$775	U19 A	7	\$795.00
U19R	NA	\$590	U19 Regional	4	\$610.00
U16AA	7	\$900	U16 AA	4	\$910.00
U16A	7	\$775	U16 A	6	\$785.00
U16R	5	\$590	U16 Regional	3	\$600.00
U14AA	7	\$775	U14 AA	7	\$785.00
U14A	8	\$775	U14 A	8	\$785.00
U14R	4	\$590	U14 Regional	4	\$600.00
U12P	5	\$775	U12 Provincial	11	\$785.00
U12R	6	\$590	U12 Regional	4	\$600.00
U10	6	\$590	U10	6	\$600.00
U9	NA	\$590	U9	4	\$600.00
U8	2	\$250	U8 BunnyFest	2	\$250.00

One division had challenges being filled, 18BB+. Burlington has a tournament the same weekend and offered to send us their U16A's and U14A's if we would fold 18BB+ so they could fill their 18BB+ division. It worked out nicely for both tournaments.

#### Convenors:

An effort was made again this year to schedule volunteers, so that a less experienced convenor was partnered with someone who had convened several times before, and overall the results were positive. No issues arose, and all game sheets were submitted on time. We had a separate Head Convenor assigned to each site, which meant there was always someone available to problem solve, should a situation arise. We should continue to encourage teams to be on time and start games early when possible.

#### Minor Officials:

There was one known issue with a minor official not showing up to a game in Elmira. Parents jumped in and offered to shot clock and time keep so the game was only delayed by a few minutes. It did not affect any subsequently scheduled games. We had shot clock issues at Albert McCormick which is frustrating as we brought extra shot clocks and asked they be set up Thursday night. Rink staff assured us the shot clocks were new and extra ones were not required to be hooked up for back up.

#### Refs:

There were no issues with Refs.

#### Awards:

Medals were ordered from Artals again this year. Similar to last year, a larger order of medals was made to get a bulk discount with the plan that in the next few years, medals won't have to be ordered at all. Costs of medals were similar to last year.

#### Bunnyfest:

Bunnies (U8s) were given participation medals and received a traditional 'give away' item. Everything was well received. Bunnyfest jars were not done again this year and only 1 other team attended which was Muskoka. No other activities were provided. This may be why U8 teams don't traditionally attend. However, the early evening NRL game made it possible for younger players to attend.

#### Fundraising:

This year we hosted several vendors including Jewelry, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Ringette Sticks and The Ringette Store, plus our photographer from previous seasons (Artifact for Life) returned.

Ice:

There was flooding at one RIM rink from the ceiling during a major rainfall. Games on that rink had to be delayed by an hour. Messages were posted on Score2Stats and the Chair phoned each of the affected teams. The Head Convenor at RIM was instrumental in ensuring the city staff responded quickly with a solution to keep the game impacts to a minimum.

Returning ice and timing continues to be a challenge. Unused ice has to be returned in November prior to final confirmation of teams and divisions and the tournament schedule.

Other:

We opted not to order draw boards this again this season, as we already pay for the Score2Stats service, and most people look online for their results anyway. We received no complaints that the boards weren't available.

Fortunately, no major injuries (involving either players or refs) were reported this year.

Financials prepared by Bobbi-Jo Schweitzer

<b>Winterfest</b>					
		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Team registration		74,008	\$ 75,375	\$ 57,070	\$ 69,720
Silent auction		2,159	\$ 2,194	\$ 1,572	\$ 1,825
Vendors		1,387	\$ 720	\$ 594	\$ 269
Other revenue/hotel rebate		\$ 2,025	\$ 1,290	\$ 3,032	\$ 2,590
Total revenue		<b>\$ 79,579</b>	<b>\$ 79,579</b>	<b>\$ 62,268</b>	<b>\$ 74,404</b>
Ice and room rental		36,048.86	\$ 34,358	\$ 33,120	\$ 34,006
Refs		\$ 9,984.00	\$ 9,884	\$ 8,862	\$ 10,345
Minor officials		\$ 5,104.00	\$ 5,286	\$ 3,770	\$ 4,370
Medals/banners/Open winners		\$ 4,855.00	\$ 4,939	\$ 4,924	\$ 4,196
Western Region/ORA fee		\$ 1,470.00	\$ 1,395	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,340
Supplies/Other/S2S		\$ 1,589.93	\$ 1,337	\$ 1,275	\$ 1,741
Team rebates (volunteer)		\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,400
Total costs		<b>\$ 61,152</b>	<b>\$ 59,599</b>	<b>\$ 55,222</b>	<b>\$ 58,397</b>
Net income		<b>\$ 18,428</b>	<b>\$ 19,981</b>	<b>\$ 7,046</b>	<b>\$ 16,007</b>
# of divisisons		19	17	17	17
# of teams		101	93	82	97

### Suggestions for Next Year:

Maintaining prominent signage at all the rinks is recommended. Some banners that let teams know this is a big tournament and Waterloo is proud to have so many ringette players involved. Posting regular paper signs taped to doors and windows is not very polished. Signage was lacking at Moses and it was not clear it was part of the tournament rinks.

Having a dedicated tournament scheduler is a great way to split the duties of running the tournament. We had great help from our G&T Co-Ordinator Nancy Houghling who finalized the schedule for us. Going forward it is recommended that a tournament scheduler be a role filled as early in tournament planning as possible.

With such a large tournament this year extra ice had to be secured in Elmira and Woolwich. These two locations make it difficult to schedule minor officials and refs as the games are not stacked back on back. Should there be a registration limit for the tournament to avoid needing to schedule 'out of town' games?

A number of out of town teams were not pleased with the expensive nature of the hotels and not being able to bring in their own food. They were forced to buy food from the adjacent restaurant which was in their opinion, higher end, and more expensive. Doing potlucks is a way for teams to bond and to keep their travel food costs down. Similarly, the rinks food vendors shut down at 6pm (AMC) leaving no options available for the late games to grab a warm drink or a snack. Not as many teams used our accommodation provider yielding to a lower take up and rebate. There were a number of complaints regarding LConsulting turnaround time, including the rebate, so suggest finding a new provider once this contract is up.

Team rebates are provided but we also require the teams to donate a \$150 Silent Auction item. Asking parents to volunteer to help host and run the tournament is not unreasonable and could be done without the expectation of a rebate. Eliminating the rebate would improve the profitability of the tournament.

The earlier time for the NRL games permitted more attendance of younger players, a real valuable experience for eager and interested ringettees. And being able to schedule 2 NRL games provided additional entertainment for the teams. Much buzz and excitement was generated. The novel vendors, and an overflowing silent auction table, heightened the experience for everyone involved. Overall, an exciting weekend of competition was experienced by athletes of all ages.

Maureen Tomlinson, Winterfest Chair